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LESSONS
of the
LAO REVOLUTION

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Vice-Chairman
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DRVN Foreign Ministry
*Statement of October 14, 1970 **

On Nixon's "New Peace Initiative"

TO settle the Viet Nam problem peacefully on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental rights, on Sept. 17, 1970 the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued a statement elaborating on its 10-point overall solution.

This statement received immediate widespread approval and response from the people in various South Viet Nam cities, from the world's peoples and the American people including a section of the US political circles. Public opinion has been strongly urging a serious response from the Nixon administration.

In an attempt to extricate himself from his predicament and passivity and ease popular pressure, on Oct. 7, 1970 President Nixon advanced a 5-point proposal which he said is a "new initiative for peace" of the US on the Indochinese problem.

In that so-called "new initiative for peace" the US president was vague on two fundamental points, namely the US troop pull-out and the political problem in South Viet Nam.

Concerning the first point, President Nixon tried to make the public believe that the US government also has goodwill regarding the complete withdrawal of US troops. But in fact, he said he would bring home US troops "on the basis of the principles" he had "spelled out previously," that is "mutual troop withdrawal," and this time, he linked the US troop withdrawal to the overall settlement of the Indochinese problem, thereby laying down additional conditions for such a course of action.

At the same time, he insidiously declared his readiness "to negotiate an agreed timetable for complete withdrawals" *with the aim of evading the necessity for the US government to clearly define a time-limit for the withdrawal of US troop: from South Viet Nam and covering up his scheme to maintain an important part of the US forces for prolonged occupation of South Viet Nam.*

On the political problem in South Viet Nam, President Nixon claimed that the US "respects the right

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Peace and Independence

I. RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES

MR Nixon is moved by a double concern: of his first objective – to win the November elections and prepare for his re-election in 1972 – he says nothing; of his second one – to "win peace" in Viet Nam – he talks every day, and the American propaganda machine makes the four corners of the globe resound with his preoccupations.

And so it came as no surprise to us when on October 7 last, one month before the elections to the US Congress, his first words in his speech were to propose a "ceasefire-in-place." It was a tempting proposal for an American opinion wearied and anguished by the prolongation of a war costly in men and dollars, and for a world opinion impatient to see an end to the Vietnamese conflict which has already degenerated into a new Indochina war.

It was a clever proposal, for what would be the situation after the ceasefire? Even if Mr Nixon should keep his promises, there would remain in South Viet Nam nearly 400,000 American troops, more than 50,000 mercenaries from satellite countries, one million Saigon troops (of all categories); there would also remain about 5,000 planes and helicopters, and several thousand artillery pieces. There would remain the gigantic bases at Da Nang, Chu Lai, Cam Ranh, Vung Tau, Bien Hoa – to name only the more important ones. There would remain the 7th Fleet with its 60,000 men and its hundreds of ships; there would remain the American bases in Thailand with nearly 50,000 men and large numbers of the most modern, the most destructive aircraft, B.52s included. In short, there would remain an enormous war machine, the most colossal one ever sent by an imperialist power against a small country. US and puppet troops would still be three times as many as the total number of French and auxiliary troops in 1954, with ten times as many aircraft!

To claim that this enormous war machine installed in a country of 17 million inhabitants in no way infringes their right to self-determination and that it allows free play to their democratic rights is an untruth that not even a schoolboy would stand up for. That its presence would be no hindrance to the negotiations and that the Vietnamese negotiators should trust an interlocutor armed with such a big stick, nobody in his right senses would affirm.

To wish that the Vietnamese people would readily agree to the presence of a foreign army on their territory means to deny them the right of self-defence, to legalize that presence and to admit that the American troops are entitled to settle in Viet Nam, that aggression is legitimate, and that if the people and liberation troops attack those foreign troops they would be in the wrong.

Thus Mr Nixon would like to win on every score: to stand before US and world public opinion as the man holding the olive branch, while keeping all his war trumps and putting the blame on the victim of US aggression. It would be the Vietnamese people who, after 25 years of war, still want the fighting to continue; it would be their purpose to humiliate the powerful USA; it would be they who, through sadism, want to keep the captured Yankees indefinitely in order to continue to indefinitely receive trills-

ons of tons of bombs, napalm, and toxic chemicals, and see all their towns and villages razed to the ground.

The truth is much more simple – especially in our epoch. The time is past and gone of all forms of colonial slavery. The Vietnamese people, like all other peoples, are firmly resolved to oppose the presence of foreign troops on their territory. No aggression by an imperialist power against any country can be made legitimate.

The principle of total and unconditional withdrawal of American troops and mercenaries of satellite countries must be vigorously stressed. A definite time-limit must be set. The US government, which has at its disposal the necessary means to land a whole division anywhere in the world within 24 hours, can, if it truly wishes to do so, very quickly repatriate the whole of its expeditionary corps.

This question of total and unconditional withdrawal within

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PLAF fighters hauling guns into position in the mountainous area west of Thua Thien (South Viet Nam)

DRVN Government Denounces "Republican Regime" Proclamation in Phnom Penh

THE DRVN Government on Oct. 15 issued a statement denouncing the founding by the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique of a so called republican regime in Phnom Penh.

"The reactionary power of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, an instrument for aggression of the US imperialists," the statement said, "is isolated both at home and abroad and is facing the danger of collapse.

"It was in this conjuncture that they had to hastily proclaim a 'republican regime' in Cambodia. This is a new trick aimed at covering up the criminal aggression of the US imperialists, covering up the anti-national, anti-democratic and anti-popular features of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, in an attempt to carry out the US imperialists' scheme to enslave the Khmer people.

"At present, the US keeps using tens of thousands of Saigon puppet troops to trample upon Cambodian territory and daily massacre Khmer people. The US still sends aircraft to sow destruction and death on villages and towns, destroy pagodas and precious historic monuments of Cambodia. To survive, the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique have to rely on the bayonets of the Saigon occupation troops, on US bombs and bullets, and on the fascist laws enacted by them. In face of this glaring truth, all US manoeuvres, no matter how perfidious and cunning, certainly can deceive nobody."

"Mr Nixon Tries To Deceive the American Electorate"

(Excerpts from a statement on October 10 by the Spokesman of the DRVN Government Delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam)

PRESIDENT Nixon declared on October 9 to the press that his five-point plan is a proof of flexibility and contains new proposals one of which is related to the total withdrawal of American troops in case the other side also withdraws its troops. This point, Mr Nixon claimed, had never been proposed by the American side. President Nixon also tried to make people believe that his plan is not an election propaganda ploy and noisily advertised that it enjoyed broad support right in the United States.

We deem it necessary to make the following statement:

1. With the above-said statement, Mr Nixon only showed that he never had the intention to withdraw totally the US troops from South Viet Nam. He is now speaking of total withdrawal of these troops while repeating the absurd claim for mutual withdrawal. Thus, the US has again displayed its obduracy and perfidy, again refused to pull out from South Viet Nam all American troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp, seeking to pursue the war of aggression and occupy South Viet Nam for a long period of time.

2. Mr Nixon affirmed that he did not pursue the goal of election propaganda. But, it is clear that he is launching a noisy campaign to deceive the American electorate and win votes for his camp.

3. Mr Nixon affirmed that his so-called five-point peace initiative has gained support from the US Congress as a whole. The world still remembers that in 1964, President Johnson, through multiple manoeuvres, succeeded in making the US Congress adopt the so-called Tonkin Resolution. However, the said resolution, far from preventing the Vietnamese people from resisting the US aggression, led the United States from one setback to another. Several years later, the same senators and representatives who had approved the resolution realized their error and voted for its repeal. This time, Mr Nixon's propaganda manoeuvre has also deceived a number of US Congressmen. But his recourse to dupery only strengthens the determination of the people of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries to fight against the US aggression. We have the firm conviction that one day those who have approved the recent resolution at the US Congress will also realize their error.

4. We want to make it clear once more that the DRVN government delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam rejects all the deceptive propaganda moves of Mr Nixon.

88th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Oct. 15, 1970)

Nixon's "Peace" Manoeuvre Exposed by Mr Xuan Thuy and Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh

THE heads of the DRVN and RSVN PRG delegations once more denounced the Nixon 5-point proposal of Oct. 7, 1970, which they firmly rejected.

"In brief, in his five points," said Mr Xuan Thuy, "President Nixon maintains unchanged his position on the two fundamental points concerning the military and political questions. As for the other three points, besides their purpose of delusion, they are also intended to strengthen the position of the US colonialist aggression. By the presentation and publicity given to his five points, Mr Nixon tries to make believe that he wants to end the war, that he has taken a peace initiative. But in fact, these five points do not constitute a peace initiative.

"They are an initiative to continue the Vietnamization of the war, to carry on the policy of making Asians fight Asians with the support and under the direction of the United States, and to continue the aggression against the Indochinese countries.

"They are not a serious response to the eight points advanced by the RSVN PRG on September 17, 1970 with a view to correctly settling the Viet Nam problem. They are made solely for propaganda purposes. Their aim is to secure the votes of the American electorate for Mr Nixon's camp in the November 1970 elections and to deceive world public opinion."

FIRST DRVN STATE *Pharmacopoeia*

VIET NAM possessed as early as in the 14th century a pharmacopoeia, the *Nam Duoc Than Hien* by Tue Tinh. In the 18th century, there appeared the *Lan Ong Y Ton Tam Linh* Dispensatory by Lan Ong, a true national medico-pharmaceutic formulary, still frequently used at present by the Vietnamese medical body. However, as in the last 25 years public health has made giant strides, there has been felt a growing need of modern medicines and traditional pharmaceutic products. Our nascent pharmaceutical industry has begun to produce for local consumption and exports.

It is to make good the absence of official standards on a national scale and of codification to standardize methods of experimentation and analyses that the Permanent Commission of Vietnamese Pharmacopoeia was set up in 1963, with the major task of supervising the elaboration of the first Vietnamese pharmacopoeia.

The Commission secured the assistance of six technical committees and the cooperation of 17 pharmaceutical enterprises, institutes, hospitals, faculties, etc.

It immediately set to preparing a long-term work during US bombings, in services and laboratories evacuated into the jungle. An initial project was blueprinted and submitted for approval to a large body of practitioners, physicians, pharmacists, chemists, engineers, etc.

Licked into shape by the Commission after receiving suggestions and criticisms from its collaborators, the compilation will soon come out in book form, as the first instalment of the State Pharmacopoeia of the DRVN.

The important compilation devoted to modern medicine contains 577 monographs on chemical products, drugs and medical materials, galenic preparations, serums and vaccines, etc.

Book II, dealing with traditional medicine, will follow.

In the elaboration of that first Vietnamese pharmacopoeia, the Commission judiciously allied modern medicine with traditional medicine. For the selection of experimental methods and analyses, it did its best to avoid those requiring costly and complicated instruments and apparatuses and to recommend relatively simple but safe methods. It also took into account Vietnamese realities, chiefly the present state of our pharmaceutical and chemical industry, the number and standards of our technicians. Nevertheless in order not to confine this pharmacopoeia to a simple representation of the present state of our pharmaceutical science, it has profited by universal achievements in this field. While relying essentially on the personal efforts of our cadres, it has based itself on up-to-date foreign pharmacopoeia in the preparation of monographs.

The Commission has been credited with imparting to our pharmacopoeia a national, scientific and popular character.

DRVN in Brief

• In the last nine months, Haiphong regional industry has manufactured new articles of fairly good quality: spare parts for bicycles, scales, transformers, bed-lamps, safes, portable electric fans, jerrycans, etc.

• In Hanoi, 53 handicraft enterprises have widened their range of production. Over 300 new articles are on sale. The Hong Chau and Kien Thiet handicraft co-operatives for the production of objects of art have resumed the traditions of Vietnamese handicrafts. Making the best use of the local raw materials and waste materials, they have turned out 90 new commodities.

• The cottage industry and handicrafts of Nam Dinh city have doubled the value of their production in nine months compared with the corresponding period of last year. The local looms have increased their output by nearly one million metres of textiles and one million handkerchiefs. More than 60 new commodities have been turned out and the prices of 37 articles have dropped.

• The first Vietnamese Film Festival organized in Hanoi is over. Nine gold medals, nine silver medals and ten diplomas were awarded to the films produced in South Viet Nam liberated zones, and sixteen gold medals, thirty silver medals and twenty-one diplomas were conferred on North Viet Nam film producers.

• In September an exhibition of works of art produced in the last 25 years was opened at the Museum of Fine Arts.

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The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES

THE history of DRVN libraries is closely linked to the various stages of the Vietnamese revolution, socialist construction and the patriotic struggle against US aggression.

Before the August Revolution, there were for the whole of Indochina four libraries worthy of this name: in Hanoi, Hue, Saigon and Phnom Penh, all under the control of the Hanoi Central Library.

In a reading-room of the Lao Cai apatite mine.

In 1939, the Central Library had a number of books amounting to 92,613. Its reading-room could accommodate 120 people. The average attendance were 200 daily. Significantly, Vietnamese books made up only 20 per cent of the total and the book catalogue was printed in French.

The collections of books in the Hue and Saigon libraries were by far smaller than in the Hanoi one.

SOON after the August Revolution, the DRVN government took over the libraries North of the 16th parallel (including Hue). But before elaborating a program of re-organization of that service, the country had eventually to wage the resistance war. Hanoi, together with the Central Library, fell again into colonialist hands. Nevertheless in the vast resistance base of Viet Bac, near the central organs, the nucleus of the first library rapidly took shape totalling over 50,000 books of various branches of knowledge, chiefly politics, army and national economy. In local centres, there were also libraries of lesser importance made up of cases of books easy to handle and quickly turned into libraries of ready use.

AFTER the re-establishment of peace in Indochina, the Hanoi Central Library became the National Central Library of the DRVN.

Since then, library science in North Viet Nam has been unceasingly developing.

The collection of books and periodicals has been increasing rapidly. From 100,000 books in 1954, when the library was taken over, it has grown tenfold, and runs to over one million. From 1,883 the number of periodicals has shot up to nearly 4,000. Meanwhile the percentage of Vietnamese books and reviews has been soaring at an accelerated tempo. Besides, foreign books and periodicals obtained either by purchases or by international exchanges have sharply risen in quantity: over 150,000 books in Russian and Chinese, over 50,000 in French and nearly 100,000 in other languages. Special acquisitions have been made in the last decade: book in Eastern languages and for ethnic minorities, collections of rare books, maps, engravings, music scores and records, etc. Thus the important national collection has been enriched by a valuable fund of human knowledge published in the main languages in the world.

The National Library of the DRVN keeps all books and periodicals published in Indochina for nearly a century. This is a valuable source, even unique for documentation on Viet Nam and Indochina during that period.

In addition to the old catalogues printed in French which remain in use for old books and periodicals, there is in the reading-room a new system of appropriate catalogues, printed in the Vietnamese (or phonetized in Vietnamese for foreign authors' names) conceived for the requirement of the broad masses. Furthermore, the number of seats in the reading-room of the National Library increases every year, totalling now 400. The daily attendance is 1,000 on the average and book loans total 35,000 yearly. Since 1960 a special section has been reserved for researchers who find there all conveniences for their work: sources of documentation, comfort, quiet...

Parallel to the development of the Central National Library and to the gradual training of librarians there are public libraries in all towns and provinces in North Viet Nam: 34 municipal or provincial libraries, 102 reading-rooms in district capitals and town quarters and over 20,000 rural or grass-roots libraries. The public libraries alone count a total of a million books, or 7 books per 10 literate inhabitants aged from 8 upward. According to foreigners, this is a success considering the young age of the DRVN and the successive wars she has to wage. In addition, there exist in North Viet Nam networks of science, people's army and T U libraries.

The National Library of the DRVN entertains relations with foreign opposite numbers. These relations began in 1955 with the socialist countries. Since then, they spread to independent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and to some Western countries, chiefly France, Great Britain, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Australia, Italy, Canada... At present, it has established relations with over 150 counterparts in 48 countries.

In 1961, it took part in the international cataloguers' conference in Paris and submitted a report on the specific characters of Vietnamese names and cataloguing reregulations.

Every year, the National Library convenes a conference of the library service attended by libraries of various networks. There one reviews the achievements recorded in the year, exchanges experience and works out the orientation for the coming years. Documents of the works are tallied and published, thus contributing to enrich the scientific documentation on the subject and promoting the quality of work. Furthermore, since 1960, the National Library has published a "Bulletin for Libraries" for restricted use.

As the result of US aggression, we are not in a position to make with the South Viet Nam library service exchanges of books and professional experience though since 1955, the DRVN Culture Ministry and our National Library have many a time proposed such relations with the Saigon authorities. This attitude of the Saigon administration runs counter to national interest. Pending the peaceful reunification of the country, the National Library of the DRVN as well as the libraries in North Viet Nam towns and provinces have built up a special stock of books and periodicals for South Viet Nam towns and provinces to which they are soldered by sworn brotherhood ties. The libraries such set up are called "Sworn Brotherhood Libraries" (Thu Vien Ket Nghia). The books so gathered and exceeding now the 500,000 mark will be transferred to the South when the country will be re-unified. Especially, the National Library has put by for its Hue and Saigon sister organizations over 200,000 books with a complete system of catalogues.

THE striking feature of our library service is its mass character. We have had recourse to the most varied means to supply as many readers as possible with the greatest number of books in order to raise their socialist consciousness and their knowledge, thus extensively propagating among the people progressive ideas in the domains of science and culture. Reading is closely linked to life and production. It is not only done in libraries, schools, but also in enterprises, co-operatives, before a meeting, in the fields, in spare time, in the shadow of a banian with a draw at a water pipe or over a cup of hot tea. In North Viet Nam, it has become a habit of the population, and the watchword of cultural cadres is to "make books available to the readers."

During the US aggression, our public libraries in the capital city as well as provinces had to take appropriate steps in view of the new situation: evacuation and preservation of "rare and valuable books," scattering of public-reading books so that they reach the combat units, bases of production and agricultural

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At the club of an agricultural co-op.

LESSONS OF THE LAO REVOLUTION

KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE
Vice-Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee

On the 25th anniversary of Laos' Proclamation of Independence (October 12), Kaysone Phomvihane, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, has written an article reviewing the 25 years of the Lao people's revolution. It was released by the LPF Information Bureau in Hanoi. We give below large excerpts from this important document:

THROUGHOUT 25 years of gruelling but most glorious struggle, the Lao revolution has drawn many valuable lessons:

First of all, the Lao revolution proves that **in a small country with a backward economy and culture and a nascent working class like Laos which has to cope with an imperialism having powerful economic and military potentials and resorting to crafty and wicked methods, if one can build a revolutionary party with a thorough revolutionary spirit, work out a sensible political and military line and conduct of the revolution, achieve a close-knit organization and an inner unity, maintain firm ties with the masses, is animated by a total dedication to the people, and knows how to mobilize and organize the masses for the fight, continue the tradition of resistance against foreign invasion and enlist the assistance of the fraternal countries, in the first place the socialist countries, the revolution, though faced with difficulties and hardships, will certainly triumph.**

In several decades under French rule, there were in Laos many valiant uprisings and armed actions which caused many enemy losses but all invariably failed in the end, mainly because the tribal chiefs, though national conscious, were not really concerned with the interests of the masses and could not therefore put forth a right political line fully consistent with people's aspirations. In the years following 1940 the patriotic movements "Lao Pen Lao" (Laos to the Lao) and "Lao Seri" (Free Laos) of the urban petty bourgeoise, formed under the impact of the patriotic movements against fascism in Indochina led by the Indochinese Communist Party, though possessed of a certain strength and credited with some activities in many towns helpful to the 1945 general insurrection, were not able to rally the masses of the people around their leaders. Ignorant of the laws of social development they advocated the establishment of an outmoded democratic bourgeois regime if and when independence was reconquered. Since the Indochinese Communist Party was founded, the Lao revolution has got a correct orientation and the genuine revolutionary party of the Lao people, faithful to the interests of the working class, the labouring people and the entire Lao nation, has been supplied with a judicious revolutionary line and method, a thorough revolutionary spirit... The Party has steadily and resolutely led the Lao nationalities to stand up against the US imperialist aggressors—the most cruel and powerful imperialist ringleader — and repeatedly win great successes and set up powerful revolutionary forces which will be the architect of the Lao people's final victory.

In each period of the revolution, the Lao genuine revolutionary party **has accurately assessed the balance of forces between the enemy and us, and singled out the main enemy; at the same time it has clearly realized all the characteristics of Laos and on this basis elaborated a correct revolutionary line, recommended appropriate steps to the revolution, closely allied the national revolution with the democratic revolution, the interests of the nation and the Lao revolution with those of world peace, suitably adopted the offensive strategy and flexible tactics, fully exploited the enemy's internal divergences directing its strikes at the main enemy in each period, thereby beating back the adversary step by step and winning partial and steady successes.**

Laos holds a strategic position of utmost importance in Southeast Asia. There are two fundamental contradictions in the Lao society: one between the Lao nation and the imperialist aggressors (at present the Americans) and their lackeys, and the other between the Lao people — essentially the labouring people — and the comprador bourgeois and feudal forces, the former being the most fundamental. Therefore the Lao revolution has a double aspect: it is national and democratic and its aims are to liberate the nationalities from the aggression and domination of the imperialists and their lackeys as well as of other reactionary forces, and to build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Lao.

Over the past 25 years, while leading the struggle to fulfil the above-mentioned national and democratic revolution, the Party has combined the two tasks but with stress laid on the former in order to concentrate upon the fight against the imperialist aggressors and their lackeys. At present, the main antagonism in the Lao society is opposing the Lao people to the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys consisting of the bureaucratic and militarist comprador bourgeois and a number of most reactionary feudalists. The line of national and democratic revolution and the program of uniting the entire people to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, and building a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos is a brain-child of the Party in leading the implementation of the national and democratic revolution aimed at fulfilling the above-mentioned main purposes and bringing about the Lao revolution's steady successes. Thanks to this imaginative strategic guidance and this flexible application of tactics, our Party has assembled the entire people around it, disorganized and isolated the enemy to the utmost, won more substantial successes in the great resistance against US aggression and generated fundamental factors to eventually achieve our national and democratic revolution.

The national and democratic revolution in Laos is, in essence, a revolution to liberate the peasantry. To accomplish it, the key task for the Party is to build and consolidate the worker-peasant alliance under its leadership.

In the past 25 years, the Party has gone deep into the countryside, mobilized the peasants (who makes up over 90 per cent of the population), cemented the unity between the peasants of different nationalities, brought them material welfare, organized and led them to rise up against the imperialists and their lackeys to gain independence, freedom, happiness and progress, strengthened their attachment to the revolution, and consolidated the worker-peasant alliance. The Party has also set up bases in the countryside, proceeding from the erection first of political bases then military bases in each locality, mobilized the peasants to battle for self-liberation from a low to a higher level. All the achievements of the revolution and the building and consolidation of the great revolutionary forces in the past 25 years are linked to the establishment and consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance, the mobilization of the peasants of different nationalities against the imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, and for a new life.

A great experience of the Lao revolution is that **the revolutionary party must grasp and inventively apply the principle: revolution is the work of the masses and is always accomplished by the use of revolutionary violence by the oppressed classes against the ruling classes to seize power. To oppose the imperialist aggressors and their lackeys who continually resort to counter-revolutionary armed violence in an attempt to wipe out revolutionary forces, the Party has mobilized the masses to wage a war of liberation.**

The Party has organized and developed the political forces as bases, at the same time built revolutionary forces with three kinds of troops as the mainstay of the people's war. On the other hand, as the US imperialists have launched a special war and carried out a neo-colonialist policy in Laos, it has mustered the masses in a multiform battle, closely combined armed struggle with political actions, making use of various means — legal, diplomatic, parliamentary, negotiations, national coalition governments... but the Party always regards armed action and political struggle as the two fundamental ones, the former being the most important recourse to win victory.

By grasping the principle that all revolutionary and progressive forces which can be united must be united against the enemy and by determining the political and social characteristics of Laos, the Party

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The first Political Consultative Conference held in October 1965 between the Lao Patriotic Front and the Patriotic Neutralist Forces.

Leisure moments of the Lao People's Liberation fighters.

"South Vietnamese Not To Be Fooled by Mr Nixon's Honeyed Words and Machiavellianism"

Said RSVN PRG Leader to GPA

On Oct. 14, President Huynh Tan Phat of the RSVN PRG granted an interview to GPA (Liberation News Agency). He said:

"ENDOWED with a long tradition of indomitable struggle against foreign aggression and with a high political awareness, the South Vietnamese people certainly will not be fooled by Mr Nixon's honeyed words and machiavellian tricks. The South Vietnamese people and the RSVN PRG severely condemn and resolutely reject Mr Nixon's phoney 'peace proposals'.

"We are deeply attached to peace, but this must be peace in independence and freedom. Fulfilling the last wishes of great President Ho Chi Minh, loyal to their commitments undertaken in the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the South Vietnamese people, in the flush of the successes already recorded, are determined to persist in, and step up, their just fight till total victory, in order to achieve at all costs their apiration and will for peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and national concord, and at the same time to unceasingly contribute to the strengthening of the bloc of militant solidarity of the Indochinese peoples.

"Progressive opinion in the world, including the US, has warmly received the eight points enunciated by our government in the statement of September 17, 1970 of Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and strongly denounced President Nixon's peace swindle. The American people, animated by the traditional love for peace and freedom, certainly will not let themselves be deceived by Mr Nixon's nice words and will oppose with even greater vigour the US government's stubborn policy of aggression. The socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries and our friends in all continents surely will support and assist more actively and in all fields the just fight of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples against the US aggressors till total victory."

"The Nixon Five-Point Proposal Is in Essence a Move To Force the Indochinese Peoples into Acceptance of the US Piratical Solution"

(Excerpts from a statement on Oct. 13 by the Spokesman of the CC of the Lao Patriotic Front)

THE Nixon 5-point proposal is in essence a move meant for the forthcoming US congressional election and aimed at soothing public opinion in the world and the peace-loving people in the US and forcing the peoples of the Indochinese countries into acceptance of the US piratical solution.

Nixon particularly dwelt on his proposal for a "ceasefire-in-place" to be enforced in the whole of Indochina at a time when the US imperialists are still maintaining some 400,000 troops on the South Viet Nam battlefield, and tens of thousands of South Vietnamese puppet troops on the Cambodian battlefield, and are bringing many additional US military personnel, many units of Thai forces and South Vietnamese puppet troops into Laos, intensifying their war and encroaching on many areas under the control of the Lao Patriotic Front, hampering contacts between the plenipotentiaries of the two Princes to seek for a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem, when the US is dragging out its war of aggression in South Viet Nam through its "Vietnamization of the war" and continuing its intervention and aggression in Cambodia. This proposal is aimed at legalizing the occupation of the whole of Indochina by US and satellite troops, and also at preventing US henchmen's being overthrown or driven from the areas under their temporary control. The US proposal for a "ceasefire-in-place" is tantamount to depriving the Lao patriotic forces and people as well as the people of other countries in Indochina of the right to fight in self-defence, compelling them to resign themselves to the aggression and enslavement of the US imperialists and their lackeys.

This ceasefire offer, linked with the vague statement concerning troop withdrawal, betrays the US intention not to withdraw speedily, totally and unconditionally the US troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam and, at the same time, not to pull out the US military advisers and personnel, the Thai mercenaries and the South Vietnamese puppet troops it has dispatched to Laos to assist its quislings there.

Likewise, the questions of international peace conference on Indochina, political settlement and

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"A Durable Peace in Indochina Can Only Be Achieved with the Complete and Unconditional Withdrawal of US and Satellite Troops"

(Excerpts from a statement on Oct. 11 by the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia)

THE cause of the Cambodian crisis lies in US interference followed by massive invasion of the Khmer territory in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina.

Therefore, the solution to this problem can only be found in the respect for the fundamental national rights of the Khmer people as stipulated in the 1954 Geneva Agreements, namely: independence, neutrality and territorial integrity, and the cessation of acts that have brought about the present situation, in other words:

— immediate, complete and unconditional cessation of the bombing and strafing of Cambodian territory by the aircraft of the United States and those of its puppets;

— immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of the American advisors and the Thieu-Ky and Thanom-Praphas puppet troops;

— complete cessation of all acts of war, provocations and interference on the US government and its puppets.

The Khmer people should be able to manage their own affairs without foreign interference.

Likewise, a durable peace in Indochina can only be achieved with the complete and unconditional of the troops of the United States and those of its satellites and allies.

Loyal to the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia reaffirms its full support

for the four-point position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

— for the 10-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, with the elucidations contained in the 8-point proposal recently formulated at the Paris Conference by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam,

— for the 5-point statement of March 6, 1970 and the memorandum of July 20, 1970, of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front.

In proposing a "ceasefire-in-place," President Nixon once more placed aggressors and victims of aggression on an equal footing. He proposed that the Indochinese peoples lay down their arms at the moment when the US aggressor

(*Continued page 9*)

DRVN Foreign Ministry Statement of October 14

On Nixon's "New Peace Initiative"

(*Continued from page 1*)

to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people." The US conception of the "right to self-determination" boils down essentially to keeping in office the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet clique — lackeys of the US — opposing the formation of the provisional coalition government and asking for the right of the Saigon puppet administration to organize fraudulent elections at bayonet point of US occupation troops in an attempt to maintain US neo-colonialist domination in South Viet Nam. *To really guarantee the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, the crucial thing is that the US must withdraw completely and unconditionally troops of the US and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, and give up the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique as a tool of aggression of the US.*

The undertaking of the PRG of the RSVN to form a broad provisional coalition government comprising three components clearly illustrates its policy of national union and national concord and at the same time ensures the application of the principle that neither side imposes its own political regime on the South Vietnamese people. This fair and reasonable commitment has

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received the approval and broad support from various strata of the South Vietnamese people, especially in Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities. President Nixon, however, grossly misrepresented it as an attempt at takeover y one party.

As can be seen through US approach to these two fundamental problems, the Nixon administration still persists in its agression against Viet Nam. On the battlefield, the US is frenziedly stepping up "Vietnamization" in an effort to prolong the war in South Viet Nam, and at the same time intensifying the war of aggression in Laos and Cambodia.

At a moment when the US imperialists are still bent on realizing their aggressive schemes, have not announced a time-table for the complete withdrawal of US troops from the Indochinese countries and are still refusing to stop using their despicable lackeys to rule over the people of the latter, President Nixon's proposals for a cease-fire, for the convening of an international conference, etc., are merely a deceptive manoeuvre.

As the US imperialists have invaded Viet Nam and committed monstrous crimes there, the Vietnamese people have been compelled to take up arms to resist them, thereby exercising the sacred right to self-defence of every nation.

As long as the US imperialists continue their aggression, the Vietnamese people will go on resisting it. As soon as the US ends its aggression, peace will return immediately. Playing upon the legitimate aspiration for peace of the Vietnamese people, the American people and the world's peoples, President Nixon put forth a proposal for a cease-fire while frantically stepping up his policy of aggression against Viet Nam, refusing to withdraw all US troops from South Viet Nam and to renounce the Thieu-Ky-Khiem stooges. Such a kind of cease-fire amounts to compelling the Vietnamese people to lay down their arms, recognize the military occupation by the US and accept the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique of US henchmen.

The Vietnamese people have always shown their goodwill for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem on the basis of the respect for their national rights. They are ready to carry out all cease-fire modalities after the parties concerned have concluded agreements designed to stop the war and restore peace in Viet Nam as made clear in the statement of Sept. 17, 1970 of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government. Only such a cease-fire can ensure genuine independence and peace.

While the US government remains stubborn, is still refusing to respond to the 10-point overall solution advanced by the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, the 5-point solution of the Lao Patriotic Front and the 5-point declaration of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, hampering the progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and preventing the meeting between the plenipotentiaries of Prince Souphanouvong and Prince Souvanna Phouma, President Nixon's proposal to convene "an international conference on Indochina" is nothing but a cunning trick aimed at fooling public opinion, hiding the fact that the US is obdurately maintaining its aggressive stance against Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. *To stop the war and restore peace in Indochina, the crucial point is a change in US policy and an end to its aggression against the three Indochinese countries; it is not a change in the forms of a conference, it is not its enlarged or restricted, open or private, character.*

President Nixon also proposed to immediately release all prisoners of war and civilians as an "act of humanity." This hypocritical profession of humanity cannot cover the fact that the US has been waging on Viet Nam the most atrocious aggressive war in history. Since 1965, the US imperialists have dropped on both parts of Viet Nam a quantity of bombs many times bigger than that the US used on various battlefields during World War II. The US had dumped on some places of South Viet Nam a tonnage of explosive bigger than that of the atomic bomb released on Hiroshima in 1945. American aircraft and warships most savagely attacked towns, townships, villages, hospitals, churches, etc., in North Viet Nam. In the South, hundreds of B.52s and thousands of planes of other types have dumped bombs, shells and toxic chemicals on vast rural areas and even cities. Under their "kill all, burn all, destroy all" policy, the US imperialists have massacred women, children and old people and razed whole villages, typical of which were the Ba Lang An and Son My atrocities.

During their bloody raids, the US-puppets have arrested tens of thousands of innocent civilians and herded into concentration camps millions of others. The US imperialists' killings and devastations in Viet Nam have aroused indignation and stern condemnation among the whole mankind. The US government must be held responsible for the death and imprisonment of tens of thousands of Vietnamese and Americans, and for the suffering of tens of thousands of Vietnamese and American families. By raising the question of prisoners of war, President Nixon only aimed at misleading public opinion in service of the US obdurate scheme to prolong the war. *An end must be put to the US war of aggression if the sufferings which are daily wreaked on the Vietnamese and American peoples are to be stopped.*

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam fully supports the proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for negotiations on the release of captured militarymen if the US declares to withdraw all its troops by June 30, 1971.

The DRVN Government unreservedly backs the demand raised many times by the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government that the US and the Saigon administration set free immediately and unconditionally all civilians arrested and detained by them and dissolve at once the concentration camps so that the people can freely return to a normal life in their home villages.

At a time when the US government is pushing up the implementation of its aggressive policy in Viet Nam and to the other countries of Indochina, the "new initiative for peace" of President Nixon is a mere move to deceive public opinion in the world and the US, to serve the forthcoming elections in the US and to dodge a response to the fair and reasonable proposals made on Sept. 17, 1970 by the RSVN PRG. This "peace" fraud of the Nixon administration does not at all help the peaceful settlement of the Indochinese problem but only serves the US scheme to prolong and expand its aggressive war in Indochina.

In 1956, the US government already advanced proposals for a cease-fire and unconditional negotiations as a smokescreen for the massive introduction of US troops into South Viet Nam and war escalation. Now President Nixon has once again made a cease-fire proposal and called for negotiation without preconditions. This is to serve the "Vietnamization of the war" scheme, drag out the aggressive war and prolong the occupation of the Indochinese countries. This deceitful "peace" plan of President Nixon is doomed to disastrous failure like previously.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN sternly condemn and categorically reject the deceptive "peace" overture made by the Nixon administration. The Government of the DRVN fully agrees to the statements of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front and the PRG of the RSVN, exposing it and turning it down as a propaganda "peace" ploy.

Concerning the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem and the Indochina question, the position of the Vietnamese people is quite clear.

On the Viet Nam issue, it has found expression in the four points of the Government of the DRVN, and the 10-point overall solution and the statement of Sept. 17, 1970 of the South Viet Nam NFL and the PRG of the RSVN.

As far as Laos is concerned, the Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN fully support the 5-point solution of March 6, 1970 of the CC of the Lao Patriotic Front.

Concerning Cambodia, the Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government give their unqualified approval to the 5-point Proclamation of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk on March 23, 1970.

As the US has sent troops to invade the Indochinese countries, it must end its aggression and withdraw all its troops and military personnel from the Indochinese countries to let the people of each of these countries settle their internal affairs themselves. As pointed out by the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the people of the three Indochinese countries are resolved to "defend their sacred national rights, to defend the fundamental principles of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements so as to make Indochina a truly independent and peaceful area in conformity with the aspirations of the three peoples and the interests of peace in Southeast Asia and the world."

Through a quarter-century of fighting against aggression, the Vietnamese people have had to endure many sacrifices and hardships, therefore more than anybody else, they want peace to re-build their country, and build a plentiful and happy life of their own, but it must be a genuine peace in real independence and freedom. Decidedly the Vietnamese people will never accept a "Pax Americana."

So long as the US pursues its aggression against Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will fight on till the achievement of their fundamental national rights already recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. In their resistance to the US aggression, for national salvation, the Vietnamese people have defeated the US war of destruction in the North, foiled the US "special war" and are holding in check the US "local war" in South Viet Nam, and making an important step in frustrating the "Vietnamization" plan of the Nixon administration. Acting upon the sacred Testament of esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, and in the flush of the great and glorious successes already recorded, the Vietnamese people are resolved to brave all sacrifices and hardships, persist in, and step up, the fight on the military, political and diplomatic fronts till complete victory.

Loyal to the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the Vietnamese people are determined to strengthen their unity with the Lao and Khmer peoples, to continue fighting side by side with them and together with them to bring the just cause of the three peoples to glorious victory, and to baffle Nixon's doctrine of using Asians to fight Asians.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are firmly convinced that the governments and peoples of the brother socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, the international peace and democratic organizations, the American people of various strata and the world's peoples as a whole will increase support for the just cause of the Vietnamese people and the other peoples of Indochina, will go on insisting with firmness that the US government give a serious response to the fair and reasonable proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to advance toward a sound political solution to the Viet Nam question, and urging with more force the US government to end its aggressive war in Indochina and withdraw from there all its troops to let the people of each Indochinese country settle their internal affairs.

* *Italics are ours* — Ed.

NIXON: The Man and His Policy

III – Nixon and US New Global Strategy

NGUYEN CHUNG

ON February 18, 1970, the White House made public President Nixon's long "report on US foreign policy in the seventies, a new strategy for peace."

Nixon laid emphasis on the new character of his strategy which, he said, must further the cause of peace.

A NEW "ERA" OR OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ITS LIMITATIONS

NIXON had to concede that the world had changed a great deal and that a "new era" was in the making. This had compelled the American rulers to re-assess the situation and reshape their global strategy.

At the end of World War II, the US became the leader of the imperialist camp. Its most dangerous rivals, Germany, Italy and Japan, had been vanquished and its allies, first and foremost, Great Britain and France, came out of the war much weakened and financially dependent on it. It enjoyed the monopoly of the atomic weapon. All these factors incited US imperialism to claim the exclusive right to world hegemony. A hitch, however, stood in its way: the Soviet Union as well as the forces of national independence, democracy, peace and social progress, were the revolutionary maelstroms which mounted impetuously in post-war years.

Washington's global strategy aimed first at emasculating the socialist camp chiefly the Soviet Union. On March 12, 1947, President Truman accused international communism, of "seeking to impose upon free peoples totalitarian regime by direct or indirect aggression" and said that this "undermine[d] the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the USA." The US thus must lend the "free world" a helping hand.

Relying on this military strength and economic and financial potentials, within fifteen years (from 1945 to 1960) the US pursued an outright aggressive policy. It put forth the "containment" strategy under Truman, the "massive retaliation" doctrine under Eisenhower and waged the "cold war" on the Soviet Union and People's China. It called for the "liberation" of the socialist countries in Eastern Europe and set afoot a series of military blocs (NATO, CENTO, SEATO), signed military pacts with a dozen countries, set up over 2,000 military bases and stationed over one million GIs in every part of the world to contain the socialist camp and keep other peoples under its sway. Added to this was an economic and military aid amounting to billions of dollars to subjugate the countries in Western Europe and Japan, to seize their old colonies and help US agents in the Third World in the repression of the popular movement for national independence.

But history could not be tailored to Washington's desires. As early as 1949, the US lost the atomic monopoly. Its economic and monetary supremacy visibly declined chiefly in the fifties as a result of the swift economic growth of the socialist camp and the economic rehabilitation of other imperialistic countries. Then came the victory of the Vietnamese resistance war over French colonialism and the triumph of the Chinese revolution, the blows dealt by the Korean and Chinese forces to the US in Korea, the consolidation of the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, and the success of the Cuban revolution. The socialist camp in fact became the decisive factor of the revolution of human society. Meanwhile, the national liberation movement made big strides in Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America, shrinking gradually the range of activities of imperialism. Despite Dulles' fist-shaking, the newly independent countries showed propensity to a policy of peace and neutrality and since the Bandung Conference in 1955, the Afro-Asian solidarity directed against imperialism had grown firmer and firmer. In the capitalist world a movement for peace and democracy was rising, accelerating the mass actions against the imperialistic wars of aggression in Korea, Viet Nam and Algeria.

These major currents of the world revolutionary movement harassed imperialism just at a time when the general crisis of world capitalism became acute, economic instability prevailed and the law of unequal development in capitalistic countries embittered the divergencies between Western Europe and Japan on the one hand and the US on the other, resulting in a weakening of the military blocs — beginning with NATO — which Washington had taken great pains to set up.

By the end of the fifties, it was necessary to adjust US strategic conceptions to the new balance of forces in the world. Thus, from 1961 to 1968, the Kennedy and Johnson administrations carried out the "flexible respnose" strategy in the military field and the "strategy of peace" in the political field, characterized both by more supple but more vicious methods to preserve continued US world hegemony. With regard to the Soviet Union, People's China and other socialist countries, US sabre-rattling gave way to "peaceful" methods aimed at sowing dissensions and touching off subversions, but Washington went on with its frenzied atomic weapon and other arms races. Insofar as the newly independent countries and the national liberation movement were concerned, it increased economic aids, cultural and political means, espionage and subversive activities while developing considerable military means (special forces, quick interventionist units, sophisticated weapons). The "special war" and "limited war" strategies were licked into shape in order to face all eventuality, i.e. to stem by hook or by crook any independence movement.

Capitalizing on the dissensions within the socialist camp, the US imperialist pursued the escalation policy, hoping to recapture the strategic initiative they had lost. This was particularly seen in Viet Nam in the "special war" turned into a "limited war" in the South and the air and naval war of destruction in the North.

However, all the strategic innovations could not stave off new difficulties for the US. The unconditional cessation of US bombings of the DRVN in 1968 testified to a crisis in US global strategy.

Militarily, there was a reduction of US strategic atomic forces chiefly since 1965, because of the Viet Nam war whose huge expenditure slowed down the tempo of development of intercontinental ballistic missiles, as Nixon has himself admitted in his report. On the other hand, the US "general purpose forces" had also lost much of their prestige which made people skeptical about the efficiency of the "flexible response" strategy: hadn't the US been beaten in Viet Nam, in the "special war" and "limited war"?

Economically and financially, owing to the expenses incurred by the implementation of a most ambitious global strategy, especially to the costly war in Viet Nam, major disturbances cropped up under the double phenomenon of inflation and recession. Thus, instead of serving US economic expansion, US global strategy and world policeman role weakened all its very instruments: the US dollar totters, foreign trade becomes less profitable, overseas investments dwindle, aids to foreign countries are reduced.

Politically and socially, the shadow cast by the US on the world has become more and more that of an aggressive, tough and brutal imperialism; the world's peoples have learnt it through many subversions, coups d'état, and armed interventions, let alone such wars as the Korea and particularly the Viet Nam wars. That war and aggression policy pursued by Washington has been weighing on the US youth and tax payers: hence the anti-war movement which has assumed growing proportions with the prolongation of the war. Dissensions have arisen among the ruling circles and even in the government, while in the world the allies of the US have been taking advantage of its quagmire in Viet Nam to carve out a position of advantageous competition and its satellite countries have become less and less pliant.

Such is the sad balance-sheet of 25 years of implementation by the American leaders of their global strategy. It is understandable that on the threshold of the seventies, the Nixon administration must make a new agonizing revision of that strategy. What has come out of it?

(To be continued)

In Tokyo: a workers' demonstration for the return of Okinawa to Japan.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES

(*Continued from page 3*)

co-operatives. Meanwhile, our cadres organized themselves in mobile teams to give personal help to combat and production. Reading sessions followed by comments were held everywhere to heighten patriotism, the vigilance and initiative of our fellow-countrymen while acquainting them with the heroic battles, successes and experience in AA defence, etc.

Despite the difficulties created by the war, research work went on together with the training of cadres which was pursued at an accelerated tempo: besides the Librarians' College and sending of students abroad, crash courses were organized in the country.

Since the halt of US bombing, the library service of the DRVN has stepped up its activities, chiefly the acquisition of foreign scientific and technical books and of those dealing with Viet Nam, particularly the Vietnamese resistance war against US aggression or of any works concerning the Viet Nam Workers' Party and our beloved late President Ho Chi Minh. On the other hand, the library service is anxious to raise the standard of our library science by setting up research commissions and organizing seminars for major questions on biblio-economy and bibliography. An Association of Vietnamese Librarians has just been established to be affiliated later to the International Federation of Librarians' Associations.

Many friends in foreign countries have assisted us in our library work. We take this opportunity to convey to them all our gratitude and our most cordial feelings.

WORLD OPINION BARES NEW US "PEACE" TRICK

USSR

In its commentary, the *Pravda* on October 10 pointed out that the "five points in Nixon's new 'peace' plan only aimed at legalizing and perpetuating US aggression in Indochina."

The paper added that Washington continued dodging response to the demand for the withdrawal of US troops from Indochina.

The Nixon plan betrays the USA unchanged intention to maintain the puppet administration of Thieu-Ky placemen and this is a great obstacle to a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, *TASS* remarked.

CHINA

The *Hsinhua* News Agency broadcast on October 10 a commentary scoring all the five points in Nixon's October 7 speech.

"It is clear," said the commentary, "that these five points are in no way a 'new peace initiative' but a desperate attempt to save US imperialism from failure, a trick to 'legalize' its aggression in the whole of Indochina.

"The Indochinese war will be settled as soon as the US imperialists put an end to their aggression, pull out all their troops and those of their satellite countries from Indochina and withdraw their support from their henchmen there.

"The political solution that Nixon is seeking only aims at maintaining the Thieu-Ky junta's reactionary rule."

KOREA

In its October 10 issue, the *Rodong Shinmoon*, central organ of the Korean Labour Party, affirmed that Nixon's address was only a piece of political propaganda full of fallacious and deceptive allegations, a US imperialists' "peace" hoax, a shop-worn plea for war and aggression.

This "peace" hoax, the paper added, was designed to sabotage the just position of the DRVN and the RSVN on the Viet Nam problem, save the USA from isolation due to their war of aggression in Viet Nam and win votes for the Republican Party in the forthcoming congressional elections.

HUNGARY

The Hungarian paper *Nepszabadsag* pointed out that the US had raised a ballyhoo about Nixon's statement but there was nothing remarkable in his "peace initiative." His proposals did not stem from the practical considerations imposed by the settlement of the peace in Indochina. His five points did not meet the RSVN PRG's fair and logical proposals for suitable solution to the Viet Nam problem.

CUBA

The *Granma* of October 8 said that Nixon did not intend to put an end to the war and rejected the RSVN PRG's proposals on the establishment of a coalition government without Thieu, Ky and Khiem.

The paper declared against Nixon's suggestion for an international conference on Indochina as a move to avoid extricating the Paris Conference on Viet Nam from its present deadlock.

INDIA

The Indian daily *Patriots* said, "Neither the Vietnamese nationalists nor the governments which have supported a political settlement of the [Viet Nam] conflict can approve of Nixon's [peace] proposals on Viet Nam."

The paper also added that Nixon used such magic words as cease-fire, peace conference, etc. to try to justify the aggression and presence of American troops in Viet Nam.

JAPAN

The Japanese Socialist Party exposed the US President's dodge not to give a direct response to Mme Nguyen Thi Binh's new initiative.

Hoshitaro Hirano, Chairman of the Japanese Peace Commitee, said: "Any proposal for a cease-fire which does not define the date for troop withdrawal is a cheat. Nixon's offer aims at taking the people in and is meant for the forthcoming elections in the USA."

SYRIA

Under the title of "New American Schemes in Viet Nam," the paper *Alsaura* pointed out in its October 8 issue that Nixon's declaration was part of the strategy of US aggression in Asia and aimed at extending the war. The piecemeal withdrawals of American troops were purposed to quiet world opposition against US aggression in Viet Nam.

FINLAND

In an article "Peace? All Right. But What Kind of Peace?", the paper *Helsingin Sanomat* was of the opinion that Nixon's cease-fire proposal was unacceptable for the other side because it offered no hope for an end to the war.

It is very difficult for the Paris Conference to progress if the US government shows no sincere desire to take the war from the battlefield to the conference table, the paper added.

SWEDEN

"Nixon's address brings no hope to peace in Viet Nam," wrote the *Scandinavias*, one of the most influential papers in Sweden.

In its editorial the paper *Aftonbladet* affirmed that the five points put forth by Nixon only served the propaganda purposes of his Party's electoral campaign.

USA

The "Committee of Mobilisation of Students to End the War in Viet Nam" made public on October 8 a communique stating that the only novelty in Nixon's speech was more peace platitudes in which Nixon wrapped up his intransigence concerning the legitimacy of the discredited Thieu-Ky dictatorship.

Clark Clifford, Ex-Secretary of Defense, found nothing new in the proposals of Nixon, while W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated that they offered no chances to generate a turning-point because Nixon deemed it necessary to maintain the Thieu-Ky regime.

SAIGON

The paper *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) commented that the so-called "peace" of the US President "lay also in the orbit of Vietnamization and the prosecution of the war."

(*Continued page* 9)

In Mexico on May 14, 1970, Day of Solidarity with the Indochinese Peoples: at the end of a demonstration of students and youth, an effigy of Nixon was set afire.

25th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Laos Solemnly Observed in Hanoi

● Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN and Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VNFF), sent on October 11 a congratulatory message to Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front (LPF). The message read: "The Vietnamese people, the DRVN Government and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front wholeheartedly support the 5-point political solution of the LPF CC. They always make common cause with the patriotic effort of the fraternal Lao people until final victory and are resolved to strengthen their solidarity with the Lao and Cambodian peoples in the common fight against the US imperialist aggressors until common total triumph."

● On October 10, a commemorative meeting for the 25th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Laos and the "International Week of Solidarity with the Lao People against the American Imperialist Aggressors" was held in Hanoi under the auspices of the VNFF CC and of the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian Peoples.

In the presidium were Hoang Van Hoan, VN Workers' Party Politbureau member and Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, and many other leaders of the State, the VNFF and mass organizations.

The participants in the meeting unanimously passed a resolution granting enthusiastic support to the heroic Lao peoples' struggle against US aggression.

● On the evening of October 12, General Phoun Sipaseuth, member of the LPF CC Permanent Bureau and Head of the Lao Delegation now visiting Viet Nam, gave a reception in honour of the 25th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Laos. Present at the celebration were Truong Chinh, member of the VNWP Politbureau and Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, General Vo Nguyen Giap, VNWP Politbureau member, Vice-Premier and Defence Minister, and many other Party, State and mass organization leaders. Addressing the gathering, Nguyen Duy Trinh, VNWP Politbureau member and Vice-Premier, warmly congratulated the fraternal Lao people on their brilliant successes in the fight against US aggression and in the building of the Lao liberated zone and wished them new achievements.

● A song and dance ensemble of the Lao Patriotic Front has performed in Hanoi while the LPF Information Bureau has organized a film gala and a display of photos on Laos.

● A show of the *Free Land* initiated the Lao Film Week from October 9 sponsored by the DRVN Ministry of Culture.

● On October 8 the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian Peoples and the DRVN Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries sponsored a talk on the Lao people's feats of arms and achievements in other fields during the past twenty-five years.

● The Hanoi press, the Viet Nam News Agency and Radio-Hanoi devoted from October 6 to 12 special articles and programmes on the Lao people's struggle.

Peace and Independence

(Continued from page 1)

a precise time-limit cannot be made the subject of negotiation. For it only embodies a fundamental principle of international life, a principle which, as affirmed by jurists from all countries (1), is the "cornerstone" of international law: respect of the peoples' independence.

To negotiate, to bargain about that principle means to call in question the foundations of normal, international life and directly jeopardize peace. It means to favour aggression, encourage aggressors, for then they could just land troops on the territory of any country, strike hard, settle down and then say: "Let's stop fighting and negotiate." So, here is a gangster putting his bowie-knife against the throat of an honest man and saying: "Now, don't budge and let's discuss."

Never will the Vietnamese people discuss in such a position. We will never say enough that, more than any people of the world, we are attached to peace and want to see an end to the hostilities in our country, which has been the prey of war for 25 years. But we will also untiringly repeat that peace will never be restored if we must sacrifice our national independence.

At the Paris Conference, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh has pointed out: There is an American aggression in Viet Nam; it must stop; the US government must withdraw, totally and unconditionally, its troops and mercenaries of satellite countries and its war equipment, and dismantle its military bases. If the US government declares that it will carry out this withdrawal before June 30, 1971, (i.e. within nine months, which is amply sufficient given the technical means at its disposal), discussions can immediately start on:

– the guarantees for this withdrawal to be carried out within the time set and in all safety;

– the question of captured militarymen.

Such is the concrete content of what is to be negotiated between the Vietnamese party and the American party. As regards the other problems, they are internal ones and essentially concern the various political, social and spiritual forces of the Vietnamese nation itself.

(*To be continued*)

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

(1) See *Viet Nam Courier* No. 282, about International Conference of Jurists held in Helsinki.

LESSONS OF THE LAO REVOLUTION

(*Continued from page* 4)

has successfully built a national united front on the basis of the worker-peasant alliance under its leadership. The Party has increased mutual affection and co-operation among the nationalities. With a minimum programme suitable for each period, it has resorted to diversified forms of struggle, rallied all patriotic, peace and democratic forces, won over tribal chiefs, personalities, Buddhist monks... to form a united front of the entire people, thereby isolating to the highest degree the US imperialists and their lackeys and paving the way for the revolution's ever greater successes.

Another significant lesson of the Lao revolution is that **to secure victory for the revolution in the conditions of a small country having to confront powerful imperialist countries along with enhancing patriotism and self-reliance as the main task, it is most important to achieve broad unity with all revolutionary, democratic and progressive forces in the world, unite and fight in co-ordination with the Vietnamese and Cambodian revolutions, actively seek the support and assistance in all fields of the socialist countries, the international communist movement, the national liberation movement and the justice-loving people in the world.**

The above-mentioned lessons bear in them a great truth of the present era: a small and backward nation, if led by a genuine revolutionary party with a sound political and military line and revolutionary method, closely united, fighting resolutely and perseveringly, and enjoying the support and active assistance of the socialist countries and all revolutionary, democratic and peace forces in the world, can successfully confront any imperialist aggressors — be they US imperialism — and wrest back and preserve its independence and freedom.

DRVN in Brief

(*Continued from page* 2)

● On the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the **Korean Labour Party** (Oct. 10), the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party sent a congratulatory message to the Korean Party leaders.

● In the name of the Vietnamese people, the DRVN government and in his own name, President Ton Duc Thang addressed on Oct. 13 a message of congratulation to Salem Roubaya Ali, President of the Presidential Council of the **People's Republic of South Yemen** on the 7th anniversary of the Oct. 14 Revolution of that country.

● At the invitation of the **Soviet** government, an economic delegation of the DRVN government led by Vice Premier Nguyen Con, Viet Nam Workers' Party CC Secretary, arrived in Moscow on Oct. 7 for talks on the 1971 economic and military aid to the DRVN.

● On the "Heroic Guerilla Day" (anniversary of Che Guevara), the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples and the Viet Nam—**Cuba** Friendship Association organized a talk about Che Guevara's life and work and on the struggle of the Latin American peoples for national liberation.

● At the invitation of the Viet Nam TU Federation, a delegation of the **Czechoslovak** TU Central Council led by Josep Hlasicka, member of the Presidium of the Council and President of the Czech TU Council, arrived in Hanoi on Oct. 5 on a friendship visit to the DRVN.

"ENCLAVE-ON-HILL" TACTICS...

(*Continued from page* 10)

they come to evacuate combat units or drop them on the battlefield: 52 planes were downed in the first 32 days of the engagement. However, as the rescue parties came too late, whole beleaguered units were wiped out, like the garrisons of two *points d'appui* located South and Southwest of the base on Sept. 24 last.

In total, in the 63-day battle at O'Reilly the enemy had 1,800 men put out of action, 71 choppers and planes downed and 14 cannons destroyed.

With the precipitated withdrawal of bases "Ripcord" (end of August), "Barnett" and "O'Reilly," three links in the chain of enemy outer defence line in Quang Tri — Hue areas were broken by the PLAF.

The "enclave-on-hill" tactics was applied by the enemy command in an attempt to prevent the PLAF from foiling his "pacification" operations in coastal areas. Its failure heralded the inevitable bankruptcy of the "pacification" plan, the keystone of the "Vietnamization" policy so obdurately pursued by Nixon.

The Indochinese Countries Against Nixon's Manoeuvre

A Durable Peace...

(*Continued from page* 5)

troops and those of their allies are still on the territory of Indochina. In so doing, he only had in mind the perpetuation of the occupation of the latter by his troops so as to continue the war of aggression against the Indochinese peoples with ever-increasing intensity.

Under the present circumstances, an international conference on Indochina would only legalize US aggression against, and occupation of, the countries of Indochina and, so far as Cambodia is concerned, legalize the puppet administration emerging from the *coup d'etat* instigated by US imperialism.

President Nixon's proposal is but a subterfuge put forth to deceive international public opinion and the American people, with an eye to the forthcoming November elections.

The Nixon ...

(*Continued from page* 5)

release of prisoners of war presented in new and deceptive terms, are also intended to mislead public opinion, substantiate the aforesaid pleas for "ceasefire" and "troop withdrawal" and create illusions about peace, the US is continuing and intensifying its war of aggression in the countries of Indochina.

The Lao Patriotic Front resolutely exposes the deceitfulness of the proposals made by Nixon on October 7, 1970, and strongly condemns the Nixon administration's obdurate prosecution of its aggression war against the countries of Indochina.

The Lao Patriotic Front reaffirms that the five-points political solution set forth by the Lao Patriotic Front on March 6, 1970 is the correct basis for a peaceful settlement of the Lao question.

WORLD OPINION BARES...

(*Continued from page* 8)

It added that Nixon's proposals were only intended to "appease the electorate and win ballots in the coming elections whereas Washington continued to cling to a military and diplomatic policy in the service of the continuation of the war."

The *Su That* (Truth) also said that Nixon was only after "votes in the coming Congressional polls," and that his was a passive parry to Mme Nguyen Thi Binh's 8 points to avoid the charge of obstinacy.

The *Tin Sang* (Morning News) affirmed with emphasis that Nixon's proposals were particularly designed to placate American opinion and ensure the victory of the Republicans in the coming legislative elections.

The Chairman of the Committee for Safeguarding Women's Vital Interests issued a statement saying, "As far as the Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is concerned, the USA must unconditionally pull out all its troops from Viet Nam. As the Americans came in South Viet Nam *en masse*, they must withdraw from there *en masse*. Only the withdrawal of US troops can make any settlement of the Viet Nam problem possible."

In his statement, the Secretary General of the General Association of Students stressed that Nixon's new peace initiative was only a laundered shirt, and added that peace could be established only when South Viet Nam no longer depends upon foreigners economically as well as socially.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

O'Reilly Base (Coc Bai) Evacuated

"Enclave-on-Hill" Tactics Foiled in a Major Theatre of Operations

SINCE August 6, 1970, the PLAF have been attacking the system of *points d'appui* built in the hilly region about 40km north west of Hue serving as enemy's defence line. *Giai Phong* Agency reported. US Air Mobile Division 101 had to evacuate "Barnett" base at Da Ban on August 15, while a puppet infantry division pulled out of "O'Reilly base" (Coc Bai, 16km south-east of Da Ban) on October 7 after a sound thrashing by PLAF men.

Built on a hill 565 metres high flattened by bulldozers, O'Reilly was a big artillery base provided with a complex system of blockhauses linked to each other by underground trenches and protected by minefields and a thick barbed-wire entanglement. It was garrisoned by Battalion 1 of puppet Infantry Regiment 1 and an artillery battalion manning 155 and 175mm guns. A system of *points d'appui* supported one another with their heavy firepower such as the bases "Nancy," "Barbara," "Evans" in the east, "Barnett," "Bradley" and "Tiger" in the west, "Anne" and "David Hill" in the north. US tactical and strategic planes poured demolition and incendiary bombs and napalm and sprayed toxic chemicals on vast areas (suspected to be the starting points of attack of PLAF units) in the hope of denying the patriotic forces access to the populated coastal areas which the enemy have been trying to bring under their control by "pacification" operations now under way. O'Reilly was a major base in this system and, as *AP* commented on August 11, its loss would enable the "Viet Cong" to strike at other targets in that area.

In the first weeks of August, the O'Reilly garrison took a sound beating. On August 8, Battalion 3 of puppet Infantry Regiment 54 was thrown into the tussle followed two days later by Battalion 4 of puppet Infantry Regiment 1. This did not prevent the PLAF from inflicting heavy casualties on them. On August 13, Battalion 2 and on August 14, Battalion 3 (that is all puppet Infantry Regiment 1) were dispatched to Coc Bai as reinforcements. Meanwhile, enemy bombardments were stepped up: on August 14 alone, B.52s released 600 tons of bombs on four points around the base; on Sept. 19 and 20 they flew 42 sorties (each B.52 carrying 30 tons of bombs) while B.57s (carrying 10 tons each) carried out 32 missions and F.4 fighter-bombers (carrying 2.5 tons) 38 strikes on the same days.

Nevertheless the noose tightened around the base, making the place too hot for the enemy. For instance, the PLAF now bombarded the core of the adverse position, now intercepted enemy patrols or overran hostile posts one by one. Snipers cut down all enemy soldiers who dared to sneak out of their hole. AA batteries of the patriots made the air supply of enemy bases most dangerous and costly, sometimes virtually impossible. On August 16, the PLAF intercepted two puppet companies and wiped them out. On August 26, Battalion 1 newly patched up at La Vang after suffering heavy casualties at Coc Bai, came under intense PLAF fire upon its return to O'Reilly. On the same day the PLAF hammered at two companies of Battalion 3 which had ventured out of their dug-outs and put out of action their commands as well as one hundred of their men.

The enemy aircraft also took serious losses when

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The wreckage of a US armed chopper shot down by the PLAF over Hill 871, west of Quang Tri and Thua Thien (South Viet Nam).

Saigon Dockers' Strike, a Success

SINCE early this month, many actions have been carried out by workers and employees of enterprises and hotels in South Viet Nam.

The strongest and most promptly successful of them was that of the dockers at Saigon port who walked out on October 3 against the arbitrary sacking of workers and repression of their TU organization by the Saigon administration. Their strike brought the activities of the port to a standstill, and ended successfully the following day.

The prolonged and also resolute protest of the Pacific firm workers has also been in the news. On September 23 the American bosses of this concern threw on the ground the meals of 12 Vietnamese firemen and abused them. Outraged by such rudeness and groundless dismissals, the workers of 15 yards of the company downed tools on September 24. When the managing board rejected their claims, 20 workers have gone on a staggered hunger strike since October 8. In sympathy with their comrades, 11 workers of other yards have staged a similar action.

The Saigon-Cholon-Giadinh TU Federation then recommended 126 affiliated TU to be ready to call a general strike to back the Pacific workers.

On October 6, 200 employees of an American hotel at Tan Son Nhut walked out against delayed payment of their wages.

At a meeting held on October 4, 200 workers' delegates of a yard of the RMK firm demanded wage and allowance increase to offset the devaluation of the piastre and price rises.

American and Pak Jung Hi Killers' Crimes

Nearly 4,000 Binh Duong villagers killed, wounded, arrested or herded into camps in a year

BINH Duong, a village with some 8,000 population is situated in Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province, about 40 km S-SE of Da Nang. Together with its neighbour districts of Que Son, Duy Xuyen and Tam Ky, Thang Binh was a site of many patriotic movements against the French colonialists formerly and the Americans and puppets today. Lying in the enemy defensive perimeter around Da Nang, this area has been the target of many savage sweeps by GIs, South Korean mercenaries notorious for their fiendish ferocity and by Saigon puppet soldiers. The latest of these carnages, perpetrated under the "pacification" programme, took place in last September as mentioned in a statement dated October 2 of the Commission for Denunciation of US-Puppet Crimes in South Viet Nam. The Pak Jung Hi killers (of the "Blue Dragon" Brigade) from September 16 to 28 during their operation "Yellow Dragon 7" massacred more than a hundred civilians, most of them women and children, of Binh Duong village.

The statement also mentioned the following previous US-puppet crimes:

— 476 civilians (including 118 in Binh Duong) killed in Thang Binh, Que Son and Tam Ky districts from November 7 to 17, 1968.

— 111 in 6 villages (including Binh Duong) of Thang Binh from March 31 to April 4, 1969.

— 145 in 2 villages (including Binh Duong, where 4 hamlets were flattened) of Thang Binh from April 24 to May 13, 1969.

— Over 800 (including 349 in Binh Duong) in the 3 districts of Thang Binh, Que Son and Duyen Xuyen from November 11 to 16, 1969.

Initial reports indicated that in 1969 in Binh Duong the Americans and puppets killed 912 people and wounded 372 others. They arrested 519 peasants and herded over 2,000 others into camps. Thus nearly half of its inhabitants fell victims to "pacification" operations.

This is daily occurrence in South Viet Nam. →